

L(19) C E Perkins
USS Cambria (APA-36)
To F. P. O. San Francisco



VIA AIRMAIL
1945
\$1.00

Mrs. J. A. Perkins
341 South Main Street,
Canton,
Illinois

4 October, 1945

Dear Mother,

These last three days have been about like a vacation. Since I last wrote we left Nagasaki with the squadron en route to Manila to pick up Army troops to go to Japan for the occupation. A little more than two days out we were ordered back to Nagasaki alone, while the squadron went on to Manila without us.

So we have been moored to a buoy here in Nagasaki with nothing to do. The reason we came back was that two eighteen year olds from this ship, during our original stay here, sneaked ashore and went on a

six hour excursion which included several robberies, murder, and a number of other things that now have them in the brig awaiting a general court martial, and we were considered necessary for the trial.

Though we have been in the harbor since Monday, and one general court martial board was named, including three officers for this ship, it was decided this afternoon that a new board should be named that would allow us to proceed to Manila, so we are to get under way in the morning, presumably, leaving the executive officer and a couple of others who are to serve temporarily, at least, as defense counsel. The boy they are to try first is the leader of the two, and is having

his father, who is a Chicago lawyer, fly out here by Navy planes to help in his defense.

Right now the general feeling is that they should be shot, especially among the Marines ashore, but I think by the time the trial is held everyone will cool off ~~so~~ a little so that they'll probably get about 50 years apiece.

We'll probably be in Manila a day to load troops and pull right out ~~so~~ for Nagoya, Japan, which is on the island of Honshu about 200 miles south of Tokyo. That is supposedly our last operation, and my guess is that we'll pick up troops somewhere out here.

and go back to San Francisco, arriving
there some time, probably late, in
November.

We've moved so often very little
mail has reached us since we
left the States.

I am enclosing a 5 yen note
of Japanese money for you. The
exchange is 15 yen to the dollar
but there's very little left to buy.
No liberty has been granted so
most everyone aboard is leaving
without having put his foot on
the Japanese homeland.

See me here from you,

Much love,
Charles